



TRIAL OF DR. PELLETEER,

IN THE COUNTY OF PUKEDOM.

CHARGED WITH PRACTISING HOMŒOPATHY, AND CONDEMNED TO BE EXPELLED FROM THE RANKS OF THE "REGULAR" PROFESSION.

It may seem incredible to men who live under our glorious institutions of exalted freedom, that an honest man should, at any place or time, be persecuted for his opinions in political, religious, or scientific matters; but alas! the age of persecution has not yet passed away from this earth, and the advocates of a new doctrine must expect to meet the bitterest enmity from their conservative opponents. Would that that opposition were at all times based upon honest zeal! It is not, however: it is too often the fruit of selfish interests and passions.

A trial has lately come off in the county of Pukedom, which shows that even in that remote and scarcely known corner of the world, all the evil passions which the human heart is heir to, have been let loose against that redeeming daughter of heaven—Homœopathy.

Doctor Pelleteer, an honest and inquiring practitioner, had heard of the wide-spread fame of Hahnemann, and of the increasing persecutions which that devoted martyr to the cause of truth had suffered; and, being naturally inclined to side with the oppressed, he determined to investigate Hahnemann's doctrines, and not to condemn the man until a careful knowledge of his doctrines should have been obtained. He read the *Organon*, the *Chronic Diseases*; he examined the statistical tables exhibiting the results of Homœopathic treatment; he read the journals where Hahnemann's doctrine and its application to the treatment of disease is expounded; he compared the elegance, simplicity and precision of the homœopathic treatment of disease to the filthiness and uncertainty of the old-school practice; and the result of his investigation was not a condemnation, but an unqualified adoption of Hahnemann's doctrines. Although despised at first for his defection from the sound doctrines and his allegiance to the absurd importation from the land of mysticism and transcendental vagaries, and even left by some of his best families, yet nothing daunted he unfurled the banner of the holy cause of truth and progress in medicine, and openly avowed himself an adherent of the New System.

Not content with practising it for his own gain, he endeavored to serve the cause of truth by making converts, and succeeded so well in his laudable efforts, that his opposing brethren soon began to feel the effects of his teaching upon their pockets.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the vengeance and hatred of the allœopathic physicians increased proportionally to the reduction of their bills, and that they unanimously determined to annihilate their homœopathic brother.

On an afternoon, when he had dispensed the blessings of his art to numerous patients, the homœopath received an invitation from the County Medical Society to appear before them, and to answer a charge of malpractice for having cured Eva Glutton in the space of two minutes of violent spasmodic vomiting, brought on by eating excessive quantities of fish and sweet potatoes, and for having perpetrated that cure by an insignificant and deceitful pellet of the so-called thirtieth potency of *nux vomica*.

The patient having been requested to state the facts of the case before the County Medical Society, testified as follows:

That she had eaten a considerable quantity of fish, sweet potatoes and apple-dumplings; that three hours after dinner she had begun to vomit, and that this vomiting had continued until two o'clock in the night with unabating violence; that she had thought her stomach would burst from her efforts to vomit; that for the last four hours she had vomited nothing but mucus and water; that she had used every means in her power to stop the vomiting, but without any success; and that finally Dr. P. had cured her in the short space of two minutes, by placing upon her tongue a small grain of something which had a sweet taste, and of the nature of which she knew nothing, except that it quieted her stomach as by a charm.

The defendant was thus interrogated by the President of the Court in relation to that matter:

PRES. Is it true that you deviate from the regular practice in the treatment of disease?

DR. P. I do.

PRES. Is it true that you have foresworn the time-honored processes of bleeding, purging, blistering, vomiting, sweating, and the various other derivative means of our noble art?

DR. P. I have.

PRES. Is it true that you prepare your own medicines, thereby depriving our associates in the noble and lucrative trade of physicking of an immense percentage, which, in many cases, amounts to several hundred cents on the dollar, and part of which goes into our own pockets?

DR. P. I have abandoned the profits accruing from the physicking business as an illicit gain, and prefer giving my medicines gratis.

PRES. Is it true that you cure diseases without giving any medicines?

DR. P. I give medicines, as every homœopathic physician does; but instead of giving large quantities of the crude drug, I triturate the drug with sugar of milk, and afterwards dissolve a portion of the trituration in alcohol, shaking the solution well and then mixing a portion of this solution with new alcohol, shaking this new solution again powerfully, and continuing in this fashion, making new solutions and developing new powers of the drug ad infinitum.

PRES. Why do you not prepare your drugs as our apothecaries are in the habit of doing?

DR. P. Because the common processes of our apothecaries frequently destroy the remedial virtues of many drugs, as may be seen by boiling onions, pepper, mustard-seed, &c., all of which lose their virtues by boiling, but keep them when triturated, and even manifest them in a much higher degree. Homœopathic physicians act upon the disease directly by means of the dynamic power of the drug, and not in a round-about way by poisoning the organism and breaking down the constitution with large doses of the crude drug.

PRES. That will do, sir, you may take your seat.

The Court here adjourned for an hour; after the lapse of which period the President charged the members as follows, in the absence of the defendant:

“Gentlemen:—It is with feelings of dismay and deep sorrow that I announce to you the melancholy fact, that the new German humbug, which has been so much talked of in the newspapers and has upset the brains of a number of the best and most respectable members of our profession, has infected this remote abode of sound medical doctrines, and is likely to cast a firebrand amongst us which will consume our influence, our bank-bills, our privileges, and enkindle a flame of horror and indignation against us in the hearts of our deluded patients. Can we expect to succeed in stemming the current of this new opposition? Would it be safe to expose ourselves to a shameful defeat in attempting to crush an infant, which, like Hercules in the cradle, might prove a terrific giant? Friends, I scarcely know what to advise in this perplexity. If we could enjoy the fruits of our position ten years longer, we might have succeeded in amassing snug fortunes and retiring from practice, leaving the field to that pest of reformers, which it shall be my constant prayer the devil may take to himself to all eternity, to the great comfort of our weary and lazy souls. It is true, gentlemen, and we all confess it among ourselves, that we ought to be ashamed of ourselves for the gross deception which we are constantly in the habit of practising upon our patients, making them believe that we know all about the nature and origin of disease, and have an absolute control over the results which we intend to effect with our drugs; whereas we know that we are in the darkest ignorance on all those subjects, and frequently effect much less by means of our cumbrous and ludicrous prescriptions, than a common peasant does with a simple drug from domestic practice. However, can we yield without losing caste with our patients, who have suffered themselves to be duped for thousands of years past by our practices, and imposing and dignified charlatanism? Shall we admit to those homœopaths—the devil take their souls—that we are a pack of dunces, as we know we are—a gang of shameless pretenders and remorseless vampyres, sucking the blood of our fellow-beings, and chuckling at the good-natured simplicity with which they suffer themselves to be humbugged by our cunning and poisoned by our nostrums? Shall we renounce influence and income? Shall we consent to be made the laughing-stocks of the present and of all future generations? Shall we admit that we are a parcel of gross and beastly materialists, and that our practice is characterized by the most disgusting filthiness, and by any thing else which can offend the refined feeling of a man of education and a Christian? We shall have to do so after a while; we shall have to bid farewell to our pots and kettles, and to the racking brews with which we have inflicted untold tortures upon our deluded fellow-beings; but shall we not rather continue wielding power as long as we can, and use it to satisfy our insatiable appetite for gold? My brethren, we cannot think of making any concessions to the homœopaths; they are a band of determined, industrious and conscientious inquirers after truth; they inflict pain upon themselves in order to ascertain the most expeditious mode of freeing their patients from it; and their appeals to the common sense of men are so powerful and irresistible, that they finally must triumph over the most obstinate opposition. But as long as we can, let us remain in possession of the wealth of the world; and in order to accomplish that purpose let us lie and cheat, and let us unite in giving out the homœopaths for what we are ourselves—scoundrels, quacks and impostors.”

This brilliant, eloquent address was boisterously applauded by the members of the Court, and it was decided to expel the homœopath from their ranks.

This gentleman having been called in to hear his sentence, it was read to him in the following terms by the President :

"Whereas, it has been proved by your own admission, that you have ceased to respect the sublime leech and the glorious mustard-plaster; that you have sworn destruction to our salves and decoctions, and contemn the unfathomable arcana of our art, which are deeper than all human understanding; therefore we have decided, for the dignity of our craft, that you be expelled from our ranks as a traitor, a dynamist and a homœopath."

The homœopath received the sentence with a smile, and left that company of pretenders without regret.

But so far from losing ground by his expulsion from the Medical Society, his patients clung to him with so much more zeal. The following address was issued by them in behalf of the persecuted physician :

"Fellow-citizens:—We have heard with astonishment and regret that Dr. P. has been expelled from the County Medical Society, on account of his practising homœopathy. It is not our intention to defend homœopathy for its own sake; but whereas we can affirm, as men of honor, that our sufferings are much more speedily, thoroughly and permanently relieved by homœopathic means than they ever were before by the usual mixtures and decoctions; that it is just as pleasant to take a homœopathic powder as it is disgusting to swallow the common pharmaceutic potions; that the apothecaries now have never any bills against us, whereas formerly we had not only to pay our doctor's fees, but also large sums for drugs which scarcely ever did us any good; therefore we take great pleasure in recommending Dr. P.'s system to the adoption of our fellow-beings, and in urging them to set down Dr. P.'s expulsion from the County Medical Society as the result of malice, vengeance, and disappointed selfishness.

Signed)

P. STORMER,
F. TRUTHTELLER,
W. GOODMAN,"
And many others.

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From the *Homœopathic Examiner*, Vol. V. p. 149.)

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